

While Ireland is certainly suffering from the current economic crisis, it is no longer the poor country that it once was. And as peace has taken hold in Northern Ireland, it is important that we find new ways to strengthen this relationship for future generations. While my colleagues and I will continue to keep a close eye on Northern Ireland as it moves forward, I agree with the Alliance's view that the future of the relationship will be focused less on politics and more on education, business and culture. This shift is the sign of success of the many changes that have occurred in Ireland in the past 15 years and I am proud of the role the U.S. has played in bringing those changes about.

While we strongly support and fund the Mitchell Scholarship program, I welcome the Alliance's desire to build an endowment for the program and I welcome Taoiseach Brian Cowen's commitment to match everything the Alliance raises toward this important goal.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on May 20th, Taiwan will celebrate its president's first anniversary in office. Mr. Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated president of the Republic of China (Taiwan) last May. His inauguration marked the second peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another, a result of Taiwan's progress toward full democratization during the last two decades. Today Taiwan validates itself as a mature, successful democracy. We are proud of its political transformation and wish Taiwan well in its future.

In addition, Taiwan is our 9th largest trading partner and imports from the United States in 2007 totaled over \$27 billion. In recent years, Taiwan has been fully collaborating with us to combat global terrorism, as evidenced in part by its participation in the Container Security Initiative and its generous contribution to the Pentagon Memorial Fund. Under President Ma's leadership, we look forward to a strong and deepening of relations between Taiwan and the United States.

In closing, we congratulate Taiwan for its participation in the World Health Assembly meetings this May and also Taiwan's rapid rapprochement with the Chinese mainland. Both sides have reached a number of significant agreements, thus vastly reducing tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their president's first anniversary in office.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL ART- ISTS FROM THE 11TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JER- SEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize

the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2009 Congressional Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery," held at the Morris Museum, in Morris Township, New Jersey. Their works of art are exceptional!

We had fifty-four students participating. That was a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First Place was awarded to Caitlin Reid of Ridge High School for her work, "I Don't Have Much of Anything, Except These Things I Hardly Deserve." Second Place was awarded to Genevieve Asselin from West Morris Mendham High School for her work, "Mindset." Third Place was awarded to Allison O'Keeffe from Madison High School for her untitled work.

I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entry for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Boonton High School: Saif Haobash's "My Hand"; Claire Liu's "Claire Liu"; Steven McKeown's "Self Portrait"; Andrew Torpey's "Stairway to the Sky".

Chatham High School: Molly Higgins' "In My Shoes"; Michelle Mruk's "The Baron Meets His People"; Kim Stachenfeld's "The World is Burning"; Lindsey VanderVleit's "Anticipation". Livingston High School: Tamar Ariel's "Concentration #7"; Kelly Keltos' "Trevi Fountain"; Esther Kim's "Street Grunge"; Sal Spaltro's "Girl in the City".

Madison High School: Hyebin Chung's "My Collections"; Anne Groves' "Sitting on the Upper Rideau"; Allison O'Keeffe's untitled work (Third Place); Emily Rutland's "Wild Flower".

Millburn High School: Henry Ehrenfried's "Multi-faceted Self Portrait"; Jawon Kim's "Self-Portrait Still Life in Pen" (Honorable Mention); Chanthia Chanjuan Ma's "Laughing Under the Sun".

Montville High School: Keith Agnello's "Aaron on West Delaran"; Joon An's "Basic Household"; Jennifer Dinsfriend's "Indonesian Still Life" (Honorable Mention); Michael Johnston's "Debris".

Morris Catholic High School: Rebecca Fitzpatrick's untitled work; Kristin King's "Standing Out in the Crowd"; Sery Kwon's untitled work; Christine Pierson's untitled work.

Morris Knolls High School: Lindsay Hescok's "Suzanne"; Madeleine Provost's "Papaya"; Victoria Reed's "Geraldo"; Anita Sukha's "Color the Mind".

Morristown High School: Katrina Cervante's "The Dining Room"; Michelle Kim's "Sunflower"; Jack Taylor's "Guantanamo"; Chelsea Tomblin's "M.O.S.". Mount Olive High School: Heather Dalton's "City Streets"; Brian Hays' "Reflection of Ages Past"; Chantal McStay's "Shadow Crane"; Jonathan Weiss' "Childhood Energy".

Ridge High School: Samantha Bard's "As If"; Gabriella DeMarco's "Going Green"; Caitlin Reid's "I Don't Have Much of Anything Except These Things I Hardly Deserve" (First Place); Kristen Spratford's "The Unveiling".

Roxbury High School: Natalie Florio's "Look to the Light" (Honorable Mention); Vicki

Kienzlen's "Man of the Sea"; Lauren Poggi's "Breaking News"; Ephrath Tesfaye's untitled work.

Watchung Hills High School: Kristen Givens' "Red Flower" (Honorable Mention); Lisa Monetti's "Photo 2 Surrealism"; Robert Verdino's "Re-birth".

West Morris Mendham High School: Genevieve Asselin's "Mindset" (Second Place); Blair Christen Hartman's "Flight"; Nathan Krump's "Ceramic Serenade"; Jillian Marinaro's "Twisted".

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of fellow Americans walk through that corridor and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVER- SARY AND THE LASTING LEG- ACY OF THE HISTORIC SUPREME COURT CASE, BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifty-fifth anniversary and the lasting legacy of the historic Supreme Court Case, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Handed down on May 17, 1954, the Warren Court's unanimous decision stated that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." As a result, de jure racial segregation was ruled a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The case overturned earlier rulings going back to Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 by declaring that state laws that established separate public schools for black and white students denied black children equal educational opportunities. This victory paved the way for integration and the civil rights movement.

Despite this historic victory, over half a century later, we still find huge disparities in the education and opportunities our children are provided at different schools. There have been some advances. Notably, the U.S. Supreme Court ushered in a new chapter in education with its 1974 unanimous decision in Lau v. Nichols, which enumerated the educational rights of English language learners and established that education is a civil right. The court ruled that simply providing all students with equal facilities, books, teachers, and curriculum was not sufficient to guarantee that all students had equal access to a quality education. Sadly, today we are still not fully providing equity in our schools.

Education is at the very center of our democratic meritocracy, and it is imperative that every American child be afforded a true opportunity to achieve their highest potential. To reach this ideal, we must establish an education system focused on each child's needs,

providing the support they need and wisely funded. We need equity in the education system, wherein resources are allocated based on need, not the current parity-based funding formula that fails to address the needs of each child.

Establishing a system that provides funding according to the needs of each child will get us closer to achieving equity. An equitable, need-based system will provide teachers with insight into the educational needs of each student in their classroom. Equitable funding will direct funds based on the needs of each student. Equitable funding will provide the resources to ensure each student will achieve individual success.

I have re-introduced the Educational Opportunity and Equity Commission Act, H.R. 1758, to begin the process of overhauling the country's education system and to finally address the disparities among America's schools. This legislation creates a national commission charged with gathering public opinions and insights about how government can improve education and eliminate disparities in the education system. Importantly, the Commission's composition would change the nature of the debate because it will be comprised of parents, teachers and experts on equity, civil rights, education policy, school finance, economics, and taxation. All users and beneficiaries of America's education system will work together from the ground up to develop a school reform road map.

As we mark the fifty-fifth anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, we celebrate the advances we have made and re-affirm our commitment to provide a world-class education to each American child. We must ensure sufficient funding to provide a 21st century education to every child based on the child's individual needs, not categorical averages. I hope you will join me in challenging our leaders to fulfill on their obligation to advance the learning of every child.

HONORING ALAN CARTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alan Carter upon his retirement from the City of Modesto Police Department. Mr. Carter will be honored at his retirement party on Friday, May 15, 2009, at the Elks Lodge in Modesto, California.

Alan Carter's first assignment was as a patrol officer for the City of South San Francisco Police Department in 1978. He was there until 1983 when he was transferred to the City of Modesto Police Department. He has been with the Modesto Police Department ever since.

Over the past twenty-five years Sergeant Carter has held many positions. He began in Modesto as a patrol officer, then he was became a K-9 handler, a Heroin Impact Team Member and a Field Training Officer. In 1987, he became a detective. As a detective he worked various investigations including; Vice-Narcotics, background, internal affairs, hate crimes, officer involved shootings, complex economic crime, dignitary protection details and drug asset forfeiture cases. During his dignitary protection service he assisted the

Secret Service and the California Governor's Office. Sergeant Carter served as the Modesto Police Department's court qualified drug expert from 1987 through 1994, where he testified in a large number of possession and possession for sale and sale of drug cases.

In 1995, Sergeant Carter reached the rank of Sergeant and was assigned as a Patrol Sergeant, Operations Division. For the past fourteen years he has worked on Adult Related Establishment Investigations and assisted in clearing out adult businesses in Modesto. He has testified before the California State Assembly regarding Municipalities controlling these sorts of businesses. For a number of years Sergeant Carter served as a Detective Sergeant; working with Investigative Services Division of Crimes Against Persons and Special Investigations Detail. During this time he supervised fifty-three homicide cases and fifteen officer involved shooting investigations. He served as the S.I.D. Supervisor where he oversaw investigations that involved hate crimes, vice investigations, drug asset forfeiture, arson, bomb threats, dignitary protection identity theft and other special fraud investigations. He served as the Assistant Public Information Officer and a Tactical Flight Officer.

From 2005 through 2007, Sergeant Carter was assigned as the Academy Coordinator at the Ray Simon Regional Criminal Justice Training Center. His final position has been Unit Supervisor for the Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crimes Task Force; he has investigated computer crimes and forensics, including Hi-Tech, identity theft and Internet Crimes Against Children. In addition to all of the work that he has performed for the police department, Sergeant Carter has been working with the Honor and Color Guard since 1985. He has lead a team of twelve officers for police officer funerals, memorials and city functions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Sergeant Alan Carter upon his retirement from the City of Modesto Police Department. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Sergeant Carter many years of continued success.

MEDAL OF HONOR COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I rise before you today in order to show my support for H.R. 1209, "Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009." The coins minted as a result of this legislation will be in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

In these times of war and economic uncertainty I think it is important to honor those who

served America to their greatest capacity. Moreover, recognition of this great honor will foster patriotism and inspire and encourage the youth of America to become worthy citizens.

Only those who performed a deed of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life can receive a Medal of Honor. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit. This award is so prestigious that fewer than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces.

The Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009 as passed would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue \$5 gold coins and \$1 silver coins emblematic of the design selected by the Secretary, after consultation with the Boards of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, in honor of the distinguished service of the American military men and women who have been Medal of Honor recipients.

The design for the coins minted under this Act will contain motifs that represent the 3 Medal of Honor designs (Army, Navy, and Air Force) and specifically honor the Medal of Honor recipients of both today and yesterday, such designs that are consistent with the traditions and heritage of the United States Armed Services, the mission and goals of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and the mission and goals of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.

The coins will only be available for a limited time. The period for coin issuance will be for the calendar year 2011. The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, however coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

The treasury will only be producing no more than 100,000 \$5 gold coins and no more than 500,000 \$1 coins. I think it is wonderful that the surcharges imposed for the purchase of these coins will be distributed to the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation to help finance educational, scholarship, and outreach programs of the Foundation.

SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATING FEDERAL BUILDING AFTER RONALD H. BROWN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation and excitement that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has passed my bill, H.R. 837, which would designate a new State Department building in New York City as the Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building in honor of the late Commerce Secretary. The 26-story building, located at 799 United Nations Plaza, across the street from the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly, will house the United States Delegation to the U.N., which carries out the